REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of the subject matter of this application is requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 11-26 and 46-48 have been canceled in the interest of simplifying the prosecution. Claim 1 remains the main independent claim. All other claims are dependent on claim 1.

The Drawing

The drawing appears to be acceptable as filed.

Rejection

All pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Bremer et al. (Bremer).

Argument

Prior to addressing the rejections, a brief summary of the invention may provide background for the remainder of these remarks, particularly in light of the cited prior art patent of Bremer.

Applicants' invention as claimed relates to attachments for voice-mail service. The objective is to convey information or data to the called party. The

distinction between the called party and the calling party is significant. In applicants' invention, as claimed, the called party receives the voice-mail message, receives the attachment, and accesses the attachment. The voicemail message and the attachment are separate entities. They are stored separately, and stored at separate locations. They are accessed separately, i.e., the system allows the receiving (called) party to access the voicemail message without accessing the attachment. The attachment is called for as a separate transaction. The attachment is stored in a device or location that is different from the receiver (voice message machine). This provides two important features:

1. The attachment may be accessed OR NOT. The choice and time of accessing the attachment is separate from accessing the e-mail. Thus access to the attachment is a choice available to the receiving party.

2. The attachment remains at the remote stored location until requested by the receiving party. Thus, if an attachment file is very large, it may remain at the remote location until requested, if requested at all. The remote storage location for the attachment may be, for example, the internet. Thus the receiving party may receive a message summarizing a long article, with a reference like: "see the attachment for the full article". This allows the receiving party's storage device to be free of stored attachments, because the attachment is not delivered to the receiving party's device until it is asked for. .

Turning to the rejection of applicants' claims over Bremer. The Bremer system in every case transmits both the voice message and the data at the same time. This is done in a single transaction. Thus the data is not an "attachment" as attachments are known in the art. The term "attachment" is a term of art the nature and significance of which is well known to those skilled in the art. It is known, for example, to be an entity that is separate and distinct from, but attached to or associated with, the main message. Applicants rely in part on the established status of that term to distinguish their claims from the Bremer patent. It is pointed out that the Bremer patent never mentions the word "attachment". That is for the logical reason that their patent has nothing to do with attachments. Their objective is not to convey information that is supplemental to the main message to the receiving or called party. It is to convey, as a single composite message in two formats. In every case the message in the Bremer system is a combined voice/data message, a single message in time, processed by the sending/receiving devices as a single message event, and delivered and received as a single message event. In the Bremer system the two features, 1. and 2. above are not available.

Therefore, the conclusion is easily reached that all of the steps in applicants' claims that refer to manipulations of attachments cannot be fairly said to be anticipated by Bremer. Claim 1 also includes the storage of the attachment as separate from the receiving device, and retrieval of the attachment as a step separate from retrieval of the voice-mail message. That amplifies the essential difference between the attachment implementation of applicants' method and the

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combination message of the Bremer patent.

In view of the amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the application is requested.

In the event that the Examiner concludes that a telephone call would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at Area Code 757-258-9018.

Respectfully,
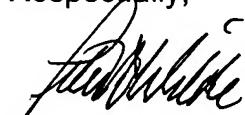
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